



Ever Need Encouraging?

Have you ever really needed someone to encourage you? We all know what it feels like to be discouraged. A harsh comment someone makes of you. A quiet fear that we are afraid to share. A burden we have carried for so long that it feels like it will never go away. Then, someone says an encouraging word. Something as simple as: *“I’m praying for you,”* or *“I have really missed you,”* or *“Please tell me about your week.”* Suddenly, there is a small light that appears in your soul. A gleam of happiness arises. A smile comes to your face. A glimmer of hope. All because someone cared enough to offer you a word of encouragement.

Did you know that encouraging others is a responsibility of all Christians. The apostle Paul did not say, *“If you feel like encouraging someone, then do it.”* He said, **“Encourage one another and build one another up”**

(I Thessalonians 5.11). Paul said this to the whole church, not specific individuals. We are to strive to spur one another on as we walk our life of faithfulness before God. Have you ever needed encouragement in your faith? Ever been spiritually low? Ever questioned if living a Christian life was worth it? God tells us to support one another, build one another up, strengthen each other as we all strive for heaven. Why did God command us to do such? Because He knows how fragile the human heart can be. He knows how quickly we get tired. He knows how easily we forget His promises. Encouragement is God’s way of keeping His people standing. When Moses grew weary, God sent Aaron and Hur to hold up his arms (Exodus 17.12). Elijah

experienced profound depression after a significant victory, driven by fear and exhaustion, illustrating the emotional struggles even great prophets can face (I Kings 19.4).

Elijah just wanted to die. Then God sent an angel with food to strengthen him and encouraged him to get up and be on his way.

When the apostle Paul felt pressed beyond measure, God sent Titus with good news that comforted him greatly

(2 Corinthians 7.6, 7).

Paul instructs us to build each other up. Building is work. Discouragement tears down. Criticism tears down. Comparison tears down. But encouragement can build confidence, perseverance, unity, and faith. When the family of God encourages one another, it becomes a place of growing, serving, and excelling at doing the will of the Lord. Encouragement is not just being nice. It is often God’s voice speaking to us through human lips. Encouragement is a spiritual act. It is partnering with God to lift a weary soul. God often uses words that seem so small to do great things. Your words may keep someone from quitting or help someone take the next step in their faith or remind someone that God has not forgotten them. This week, ask God to show you someone who needs encouraging. Speak to them. Send them a text. Offer a prayer. Give a smile. Share scripture. You may be the very tool God uses to lift up that person’s soul.

Gary



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CONNECTION

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Good morning church family! I am very happy today to introduce to you a new staff member.

Connie Casey has begun serving WH as a PT office administrator. She will be working for us every other month during the time that Lisa is away caring for her father. Connie is a member of West Freeway church of Christ and will continue to attend services there as she is also a PT secretary for the School of Evangelism. Connie brings a wealth of experience and skill to the position and we are blessed to have her in this role.

Connie was born in Frederick, OK, where her parents were house-parents at the Tipton Home for Children. Her father soon accepted a call to preach for the church and eventually served as minister in New Caney, TX. She attended high school there, where she played tennis and was a member of the pep squad and drill team. She met a boy named Terry, a recent graduate of the high school and a guitar player for a country and western "garage band" that practiced at her sister and brother in law's home. Following their first date of a movie and pizza, they began dating and married about 4 months later. Terry was a welder for a local oil company and after 2 ½ years in New Caney, they decided to move to Dallas where Terry attended the Preston Rd. School of preaching.

Terry and Connie served churches in Houston, Temple and Uvalde for 17 years before coming to serve at West Freeway church here in FW for 14 yrs. The Caseys then moved to Florida to work with a church there for an additional 14 years. Connie has relocated back here to Fort Worth following Terry's passing last year. They were blessed with 47 years of marriage and 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild (with one on the way!)

Connie served as church secretary in Temple and after their kids started school, she went to work as a secretary for the Uvalde School District and then the White Settlement School District. Connie transitioned into the medical field, serving as a secretary for UNT- Health & Science clinic for 14 years before moving to a similar role with Harris Hospital. As I stated earlier, she brings vast skill and experience to this role. I encourage you to call or come by the office and meet Connie and welcome her – You'll be blessed!

-- Les Keele

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

SHEPHERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
*John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

Gary Williams	662-321-3208
Pulpit Minister	
Les Keele	817-808-0566
Associate Minister	
James Bowie	817-944-4492

THAI-LAOTIAN MINISTERS

Jeffery Lertboonpadong	206-819-9109
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132

DEACONS

Jonathan Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	970-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Steven Johnston

Song Leader - Russ Jones

Song - I Love My Savior, Too

Song - I Want Jesus To Walk With Me

Song - Father

Opening Prayer - Glen Baird

Scripture -

Song - Nailed To The Cross

Lord's Supper - Chuck King

Prayer For Contribution - Chuck King

Song - Jesus Hold My Hand

Guest Speaker - Glynn Langston

Song - I Bring My Sins To Thee

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal - John Walton

Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

**Our Code For
Tithley Giving**



**Our Code For
Attendance**



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, January 19

Genesis 35; Matthew 13

Tuesday, January 20

Genesis 36; Matthew 14

Wednesday, January 21

Genesis 37-38; Matthew 15

Thursday, January 22

Genesis 39-40; Matthew 16

Friday, January 23

Psalms 40; Genesis 41; Matthew 17

Saturday, January 24

Genesis 42; Matthew 18

LAST WEEK

Bible Class	127	On-Line Wednesday	6
Worship	202	Wednesday	103
Thai-Lao	33	Contribution	\$32,447.10
On-Line Sunday	20	Budget	\$15,372.28

TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

Bible Class	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM